



STATE OF MICHIGAN
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

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**INITIATIVES AND REFERENDUMS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN OF 1963**

Constitutional Amendments (Pages 2-10)

- Since the adoption of the State Constitution of 1963, 67 proposed amendments to the Constitution have been presented on the ballot for a vote of the people. Thirty of the amendments were approved and 37 were rejected.
- Of the 67 proposed amendments, 42 were placed on the ballot by the State Legislature (21 were approved and 21 were rejected) and 25 were placed on the ballot by initiative petition (9 were approved and 16 were rejected).
- In addition, the “automatic” proposal relating to the calling of a constitutional convention was presented in 1978 and 1994; in both instances the proposals were rejected.

Legislative Referendums (Pages 11-12)

- Since 1963, 20 legislative referendums have been presented on the ballot for a vote of the people. Ten of the referendums were approved and 10 were rejected.
- Of the 20 referendums, 13 were placed on the ballot by the State Legislature (9 were approved and 4 were rejected) and 7 were placed on the ballot by petition (1 was approved and 6 were rejected).

Legislative Initiatives (Pages 13-14)

- Since 1963, 12 legislative initiatives have been presented on the ballot for a vote of the people. Six of the initiatives were approved and 6 were rejected.
- Of the 12 legislative initiatives, all were placed on the ballot by petition as required by law.
- In addition to the above, the State Legislature has enacted 4 legislative proposals presented by petition during the 40-day period provided for such action. In such instances, the proposals do not appear on the ballot.

Constitutional Amendments

Subject of Amendment	Article	Section	Method of Proposal	Year of Election	Prop.	Action	Total Vote	
							For	Against
Lower minimum voting age from 21 to 18 years	2	1	Senate Joint Resolution “A” P.A. 1966, p. 678	Nov. 1966	1	Rejected	703,076	1,267,872
Establish judicial tenure commission	6	30	House Joint Resolution “PP” P.A. 1968, p. 706	Aug. 1968	1	Adopted	553,182	228,738
Require legislature to create state officers compensation commission	4	12	House Joint Resolution “AAA” P.A. 1968, p. 706	Aug. 1968	2	Adopted	417,393	346,839
Define manner of filling judicial vacancies	6	20, 22, 23, 24	House Joint Resolution “F” P.A. 1968, p. 707	Aug. 1968	3	Adopted	494,512	266,561
Permit election of members of legislature to another state office during their term of office	4	9	Senate Joint Resolution “Q” P.A. 1968, p. 708	Nov. 1968	5	Rejected	778,388	1,783,186
Permit state to impose a graduated income tax	9	7	Senate Joint Resolution “G” P.A. 1967, p. 672	Nov. 1968	1	Rejected	614,826	2,025,052
Prohibit public aid to nonpublic schools and students	8	2	Initiatory Petition P.A. 1970, p. 692	Nov. 1970	C	Adopted	1,416,838	1,078,740
Lower minimum voting age from 21 to 18 years	2	1	House Joint Resolution “A” P.A. 1970, p. 690	Nov. 1970	B	Rejected	924,981	1,446,884
Allow legislature to authorize lotteries and the sale of lottery tickets	4	41	House Joint Resolution “V” P.A. 1972, p. 1145	May 1972	A	Adopted	1,352,768	506,778
Permit members of legislature to resign and accept another office to which they have been elected or appointed	4	9	Senate Joint Resolution “DD” P.A. 1972, p. 1145	May 1972	B	Rejected	866,593	915,312

Allow trial by jury of less than 12 jurors in all prosecutions for misdemeanors punishable by imprisonment for not less than 1 year	1	20	House Joint Resolution "M" P.A. 1972, p. 1146	Aug. 1972	A	Adopted	696,570	357,186
Limit property tax for school, county, and township purposes and require legislature to establish a state tax program for support of schools	9	6	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 1972	C	Rejected	1,324,702	1,815,126
Permit state to impose graduated income tax and allow legislature to authorize political subdivisions to levy graduated income tax	9	7	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 1972	D	Rejected	959,286	2,102,744
Limit use of motor fuel tax fund	9	9	Senate Joint Resolution "LL" P.A. 1972, p. 1147	Nov. 1974	A	Rejected	1,091,938	1,146,109
Eliminate sales tax and use tax on food and prescription drugs	9	8	Initiatory Petition P.A. 1974, p. 1357	Nov. 1974	C	Adopted	1,337,609	1,071,253
Lower minimum age of eligibility for office of state representative or state senator from 21 to 18 years	4	7	House Joint Resolution "B" P.A. 1976, p. 1755	Nov. 1976	B	Rejected	698,993	2,580,945
Limit taxation imposed by legislature to 8.3% of state personal income	9	25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 1976	C	Rejected	1,407,438	1,866,620
Permit state to impose a graduated income tax	9	7	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 1976	D	Rejected	897,780	2,332,513
Call for constitutional convention			Required by Const. 1963, art. 12, § 3.	Nov. 1978	A	Rejected	640,286	2,112,549
Authorize deposit of state funds in savings and loan associations and credit unions, as well as banks	9	19, 20	House Joint Resolution "GG". P.A. 1978, p. 2619	Nov. 1978	C	Adopted	1,819,847	933,101

Prohibit alcoholic beverages from being sold to, or possessed by, a person under the age of 21	4	40	Initiatory Petition P.A. 1978, p. 2627	Nov. 1978	D	Adopted	1,609,589	1,208,497
Establish limits on taxes imposed by legislature and units of local government (Headlee Amendment)	9	6, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34	Initiatory Petition P.A. 1978, p. 2627	Nov. 1978	E	Adopted	1,450,150	1,313,984
Grant Michigan state troopers and sergeants right to collective bargaining and binding arbitration	11	5	Initiatory Petition P.A. 1978, p. 2630	Nov. 1978	G	Adopted	1,535,023	1,203,930
Prohibit use of property taxes for school operating expenses and establish a voucher system for financing education of students at public and nonpublic schools	9 8	6 2	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 1978	H	Rejected	718,440	2,075,583
Reduce property tax assessments to establish a maximum of 5.6% on the rate of the state income tax; prohibit legislature from requiring new or expanded local programs without state funding; and allow school income tax with voter approval (Tisch Amendment I)	9	3, 3(a), 7(a), 7(b), 25(a), 25(b), 26	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 1978	J	Rejected	1,032,343	1,737,133
Allow courts to deny bail under certain circumstances involving violent crimes; provide for commencement of trial within 90 days	1	15	House Joint Resolution “Q” P.A. 1978, p. 2620	Nov. 1978	K	Adopted	2,307,038	458,357

Allocate at least 90% of gas tax revenues for general road purposes and the remainder for other transportation purposes; and replace state highway commission with transportation commission	5 9	28 9	House Joint Resolution “F” P.A. 1978, p. 2620	Nov. 1978	M	Adopted	1,478,316	1,233,196
Require legislature to create a railroad redevelopment authority to make loans to railroads with trackage in Michigan and to authorize authority to issue general obligation bonds in amount not to exceed 175 million dollars	4	54	House Joint Resolution “OO” P.A. 1978, p. 2622	Nov. 1978	R	Rejected	1,257,606	1,415,441
Make local school boards responsible for school personnel and programs, reduce local property tax maximums for operational purposes, provide additional property tax relief for senior retirees, and require the state to raise revenues necessary for equal per pupil funding of public schools	8 9	2 6, 31, 6a, 26a	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 1980	A	Rejected	746,027	2,769,497
Lower minimum legal age for possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages from 21 to 19 years	4	40	House Joint Resolution “S” P.A. 1980, p. 2321	Nov. 1980	B	Rejected	1,403,935	2,250,873
Provide property tax relief; reimburse local and state governments with additional sales tax; require net state lottery revenues be deposited in school aid fund; and mandate creation of state “rainy day” fund	4 9	41, 54 2, 3, 8, 30, 31	Senate Joint Resolution “X” P.A. 1980, p. 2317	Nov. 1980	C	Rejected	894,441	2,583,253

Decrease property taxes and prohibit new types of homestead taxes; require 60% voter approval to raise state taxes or fees; require partial state reimbursement to local units for lost income; limit legislature's ability to change tax exemptions or credits or change per pupil formula (Tisch Amendment II)	9	1, 2, 3, 31, 2a, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 33a, 33b	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 1980	D	Rejected	1,622,301	2,051,008
Allow the legislature to pass laws relating to members' immunity from civil arrest and process during legislative sessions	4	11	Senate Joint Resolution "L" P.A. 1980, p. 2321	Nov. 1980	G	Rejected	1,287,172	2,134,546
Restrict authority of lieutenant governor and establish a procedure to fill a vacancy in the office of the lieutenant governor	4 5	9 25, 26	Senate Joint Resolution "K" P.A. 1980, p. 2322	Nov. 1980	H	Rejected	1,410,912	1,927,001
Reduce property taxes and city income taxes; limit growth of property tax revenues; return additional sales tax to local governments and schools; and require net lottery revenues be deposited in school aid fund	4 9	41 3, 8 30, 31	House Joint Resolution "G" P.A. 1981, p. 1067	May 1981	A	Rejected	560,924	1,451,305
Allow the legislature to pass laws to reform members' immunity from civil arrest and process during legislative sessions	4	11	Senate Joint Resolution "A" P.A. 1981, p. 1070	Nov. 1982	A	Adopted	1,804,728	1,029,743
Create a Michigan department of state police; provide for its personnel; prescribe its duties; and require minimum staffing	5	2, 30	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 1982	B	Rejected	720,915	2,111,802

Provide for an elected public service commission	5	30	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 1982	G	Rejected	1,026,160	1,771,098
Allow legislature to approve or disapprove administrative rules proposed by state agencies	4	37	House Joint Resolution "P" P.A. 1984, p. 1618	Nov. 1984	A	Rejected	1,280,948	1,827,677
Establish a natural resources trust fund and a board to administer it; to provide revenues for the fund from natural resources leases and existing funds; specify and limit expenditures therefrom	9	35	House Joint Resolution "M" P.A. 1984, p. 1617	Nov. 1984	B	Adopted	2,066,554	1,120,794
Amend constitution relating to taxes, other revenues and voter or legislative approval for same	9	1, 2	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 1984	C	Rejected	1,376,141	2,035,867
Allow establishment of the library of Michigan within the legislative branch	4	54	House Joint Resolution "V" P.A. 1986, p. 1543	Nov. 1986	A	Rejected	908,627	936,643
Allow for approval or rejection of administrative rules by the legislature	4	37	House Joint Resolution "W" P.A. 1986, p. 1544	Nov. 1986	B	Rejected	648,116	1,136,721
Expand authority of state officers compensation commission to determine compensation of attorney general and secretary of state	4	12	House Joint Resolution "U" P.A. 1986, p. 1543	Nov. 1986	C	Rejected	905,767	910,297
Provide for rights of crime victims	1	24	House Joint Resolution "P" P.A. 1988, p. 2163	Nov. 1988	B	Adopted	2,662,796	650,515
Increase the sales/use tax from 4¢ to 4½¢ and dedicate funds for local schools	4 9	41 8, 10, 11	House Joint Resolution "I" P.A. 1989, p. 1793	Nov. 1989	A	Rejected	514,407	1,341,292

Increase the sales/use tax from 4¢ to 6¢, reduce school property taxes, set permanent school operating millages subject to voter renewal, and dedicate funds for local schools	4 9	41 3, 5, 6 8, 10 11, 14	House Joint Resolution “I” P.A. 1989, p. 1793	Nov. 1989	B	Rejected	436,958	1,392,053
Limit annual increases in homestead property tax assessments and provide separate tax limitations for different property classifications	9	3, 31	House Joint Resolution “H” P.A. 1991, p. 1321	Nov. 1992	A	Rejected	1,433,354	2,384,777
Restrict/limit the number of times a person can be elected to congressional, state executive and state legislative offices	2 4 5 12	10 54 30 4	Initiatory Petition P.A. 1992, p. 1651	Nov. 1992	B	Adopted	2,295,904	1,613,404
Exempt property from a portion of school operating property taxes and limit annual increases in all property tax assessments	9	3	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 1992	C	Rejected	1,552,119	2,276,360
Limit property tax assessments and increase sales tax	4 9	41 3, 6, 8, 10, 11	House Joint Resolution “G”	June 1993	A	Rejected	1,008,425	1,164,468
To increase sales and use tax rates from 4% to 6%; limit annual increases in property tax assessments, exempt school operating milages from uniform taxation requirement, and require $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of legislature to exceed statutorily established school operating millage rates	9	3, 5, 8, 11, 36	Senate Joint Resolution “S” P.A. 1993, p. 2484	March 1994	A	Approved	1,684,541	750,952
Call for constitutional convention			Required by Const 1963, art 12, sec 3	Nov. 1994	A	Rejected	777,779	2,008,070

To limit criminal appeals	1	20	Senate Joint Resolution “D” P.A. 1994, p. 2659	Nov. 1994	B	Approved	2,118,734	761,784
To establish a Michigan state parks endowment fund, increase maximum allowable funds in Michigan natural resources trust fund, and eliminate diversion of dedicated revenue from Michigan natural resources trust fund	9	35, 36	Senate Joint Resolution “E” P.A. 1994, p. 2661	Nov. 1994	P	Approved	2,007,097	806,888
To establish qualifications for judicial offices	6	19	Senate Joint Resolution “D” P.A. 1995, p. 2445	Nov. 1996	B	Approved	2,806,833	629,402
To establish the current Michigan Veterans’ Trust Fund in the state constitution and require that expenditures from the fund be made solely for purposes authorized by the trust fund’s board of trustees	9	37, 38, 39	House Joint Resolution “H” P.A. 1995, p. 2445	Nov. 1996	C	Approved	2,447,905	849,525
To change the word “handicapped” to “disabled” in the state constitution	8	8	Senate Joint Resolution “I” P.A. 1998, p. 2549	Nov. 1998	A	Approved	1,708,873	1,181,138
To permit the state to indirectly support nonpublic school students	8	2, 10	Initiatory Petition P.A. 2000, p. 2420	Nov. 2000	00-1	Rejected	1,235,533	2,767,320
Require a 2/3 legislative vote to enact laws affecting local governments	4	55	Initiatory Petition P.A. 2000, p. 2421	Nov. 2000	00-2	Rejected	1,242,516	2,548,995
Amend the provision of the state constitution governing the operation of the state officers compensation commission (SOCC)	4	12	House Joint Resolution “E”	Aug. 2002	02-1	Approved	1,057,503	404,682

Allow certain permanent and endowment funds to be invested as provided by law and increase allowed spending for state parks, local parks and outdoor recreation	9	19, 35, 36(1), 37	Senate Joint Resolution "T"	Aug. 2002	02-2	Approved	925,475	565,971
To grant state classified employees the constitutional right to collective bargaining with binding arbitration	11	5	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 2002	02-3	Rejected	1,336,249	1,591,756
To reallocate the "tobacco settlement revenue" received by the state from cigarette manufacturers	9	36	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 2002	02-4	Rejected	1,018,644	2,011,105
Require voter approval of any form of gambling authorized by law and certain new state lottery games	4	41	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 2004	04-1	Approved	2,689,448	1,926,721
Specify what can be recognized as a "marriage or similar union" for any purpose	1	25	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 2004	04-2	Approved	2,698,077	1,904,319
Dedicate use of conservation/ recreation funds	9	40, 41, 42	House Joint Resolution "Z"	Nov. 2006	06-1	Approved	2,915,106	680,859
Ban affirmative action programs	1	26	Initiatory Petition	Nov. 2006	06-2	Approved	2,141,010	1,555,691
Restrict use of eminent domain	10	2	Senate Joint Resolution "E"	Nov. 2006	06-4	Approved	2,914,214	724,573

Legislative Referendums

Subject of Referendum	Method	Date of Election	Prop.	Action	Total Vote	
					For	Against
Act 240 of 1964, to amend sections 685, 696, 706,737, 775, 782, 786, 803, and 804 of Act 116 of 1954,to institute use of Massachusetts ballot in Michigan to prevent straight party ticket voting	Referendum Petition	Nov. 1964	C	Rejected	795,546	1,515,875
Act 6 of 1967, to permit establishment of daylight saving time in Michigan	Referendum Petition	Nov. 1968	2	Rejected	1,402,562	1,403,052
Act 76 of 1968, to authorize issuance of bonds for planning, acquisition, and construction of facilities for prevention and abatement of water pollution and for loans and grants to municipalities	Legislative Action	Nov. 1968	3	Adopted	1,906,385	796,079
Act 257 of 1968, to authorize issuance of bonds to provide funding for public recreational facilities and programs and for loans and grants to municipalities	Legislative Action	Nov. 1968	4	Adopted	1,384,254	1,235,681
Act 304 of 1969, to authorize issuance of bonds for urban redevelopment to increase the supply of low-income housing and for loans and grants to municipalities and redevelopment corporations	Legislative Action	Nov. 1970	A	Rejected	921,482	1,388,737
Act 231 of 1972, to authorize issuance of bonds to provide funding for bonus payments and educational benefits to Vietnam and other veterans	Legislative Action	Nov. 1972	E	Rejected	1,490,968	1,603,203
Act 106 of 1974, to authorize issuance of bonds to provide funding for bonus payments to Vietnam and other veterans	Legislative Action	Nov. 1974	B	Adopted	1,668,641	700,041
Act 245 of 1974, to authorize issuance of bonds to provide funding to plan, acquire, construct, and equip transportation systems and to make loans and grants for that purpose	Legislative Action	Nov. 1974	D	Rejected	963,576	1,319,586
Act 250 of 1980, to amend sections 51 and 475 of Act 281 of 1976, to increase the state income tax 0.1% for 5 years to fund the construction of regional correctional facilities, the demolition of the Michigan Reformatory, and other state and local correctional projects	Legislative Action	Nov. 1980	E	Rejected	1,288,999	2,202,042
Act 212 of 1982, to amend sections 6a and 6b of Act 3 of 1939, to prohibit certain utility rate adjustment clauses, utility rate increases without notice and hearing, and acceptance of employment with any utility for 2 years by member of 81 st Legislature	Legislative Action	Nov. 1982	H	Adopted	1,670,381	1,131,990

Act 59 of 1987, to prohibit the appropriation of public fund to pay for welfare abortions unless the abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother	Referendum Petition	Nov. 1988	A	Adopted	1,959,727	1,486,371
Act 326 of 1988, to authorize issuance of bonds to finance environmental protection programs that would clean up environmental contamination sites and address related problems	Legislative Action	Nov. 1988	C	Adopted	2,528,109	774,451
Act 327 of 1988, to authorize issuance of bonds to finance state and local public recreation projects	Legislative Action	Nov. 1988	D	Adopted	2,055,290	1,206,465
Act 143 of 1993, to reduce auto insurance rates; place limits on personal injury benefits, fees paid to health care providers, and right to sue; and allow rate reduction for accident-free driving	Referendum Petition	Nov. 1994	C	Rejected	1,165,732	1,812,526
Act 118 of 1994, to amend certain sections of Michigan Bingo Act	Referendum Petition	Nov. 1996	A	Rejected	1,511,063	1,936,198
Act 377 of 1996, an amendment regarding the management of Michigan's wildlife populations	Legislative Action	Nov. 1996	G	Adopted	2,413,730	1,099,262
Act 284 of 1998, to authorize bonds for environmental and natural resources protection programs	Legislative Action	Nov. 1998	C	Adopted	1,821,006	1,081,988
Act 269 of 2001, to eliminate "straight ticket" voting and amend other sections of the election law	Referendum Petition	Nov. 2002	02-1	Rejected	1,199,236	1,775,043
Act 396 of 2002, to authorize bonds for sewage treatment works projects, storm water projects and water pollution projects	Legislative Action	Nov. 2002	02-2	Adopted	1,774,053	1,172,612
Act 160 of 2004, to allow the establishment of a hunting season for mourning doves	Referendum Petition	Nov. 2006	06-3	Rejected	1,137,379	2,534,680

Legislative Initiatives

Subject of Petition	Date of Election	Prop.	Action	Total Vote	
				For	Against
New legislation to allow licensed physicians to perform abortions upon demand if period of gestation has not exceeded 20 weeks	Nov. 1972	B	Rejected	1,270,416	1,958,265
Repeal Act 6 of 1967, to permit the establishment of daylight saving time in Michigan	Nov. 1972	A	Adopted	1,754,887	1,460,724
New legislation to prohibit use of nonreturnable beverage containers; to require refundable cash deposits for returnable containers; and to provide penalties for violation of the law	Nov. 1976	A	Adopted	2,160,398	1,227,254
Amend section 33 of, and add section 33a to Act 232 of 1953, to revise standards for grant of parole and to prohibit grant of parole for certain defined crimes until court-imposed minimum sentence is served.	Nov. 1978	B	Adopted	2,075,599	711,262
Amend sections 3105, 3140, and 3204 of Act 236 of 1961, to prohibit lender from using a “due on sale” clause in foreclosure proceedings on a mortgage or land contract unless security is impaired	Nov. 1982	C	Rejected	1,344,463	1,445,897
Amend title and sections 6a and 6b of Act 3 of 1939, to prohibit utility increases without full notice or opportunity for hearing; to abolish all rate adjustment clauses; and to prohibit the public service commission from conducting 2 or more proceedings on same petition or application for rate increase and from conducting hearing on additional rate increase petition or application when utility already has petition or application pending.	Nov. 1982	D	Adopted	1,472,442	1,431,884
New legislation calling for mutual, verifiable nuclear weapons freeze between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and requiring transmission of communication to United States government officials	Nov. 1982	E	Adopted	1,585,809	1,216,172
Amendments to auto insurance statutes	Nov. 1992	D	Rejected	1,482,577	2,480,032
Amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to limit bear hunting season and prohibit the use of bait and dogs to hunt bear	Nov. 1996	D	Rejected	1,379,340	2,225,675
New legislation to permit casino gaming in qualified cities	Nov. 1996	E	Adopted	1,878,542	1,768,156
Amendatory legislation to legalize the prescription of a legal dose of medication to terminally ill, competent, informed adults in order to commit suicide	Nov. 1998	B	Rejected	859,381	2,116,154
Amendatory legislation to establish mandatory school funding levels	Nov. 2006	06-5	Rejected	1,366,355	2,259,247

Legislative Initiatives Adopted by State Legislature

Subject of Petition	Legislative Action
Amendment to prohibit the appropriation of public funds to pay for welfare abortions unless the abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother	Adopted by State Legislature: P.A. 59 of 1987
Amendment to require parental consent for abortions performed on unemancipated minors	Adopted by State Legislature: P.A. 211 of 1990
Amendment to define legal birth and the commencing of legal personhood	Adopted by State Legislature: P.A. 135 of 2004
Amendment to repeal P.A. 228 of 1975 (“Single business tax act”)	Adopted by State Legislature: P.A. 325 of 2006